

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 /191 W

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P R 191825Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8950

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 6012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, NL

SUBJECT: US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

1. IN CONVERSATION OCTOBER 17, NOTERDAEME, CHEF DE CABINET OF FOREIGN MINISTER, COMMENTED TO DCM ON SOME CURRENT ISSUES IN PREPARING US-EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC DECLARATIONS, AS DESCRIBED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY AND UNDERSECRETARY BELGIANS UNDERSTAND BETTER WHY US WOULD HAVE PREFERRED "GLOBAL" DECLARATION (COMBINING ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE ISSUES)

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AND SEEKS LINKS BETWEEN EC AND NATO DECLARATIONS. ALTHOUGH

"GLOBAL" DECLARATION "TECHNICALLY" NOT POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE VALUE OF US-EC DECLARATION. AS "FIRST POLITICAL ACT" THE NINE WILL BE CONFIRMING IN THE DECLARATION THEIR DETERMINATION AND THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US. US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS WILL THUS ACHIEVE A PRIORITY IN THE POLICY OF THE NINE.

3. ALTHOUGH AWARE OF IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO SUBSTANCE OF THE US-EC DECLARATION BELGIUM DOES NOT BELIEVE DECLARATION CAN ITSELF PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT TRADE, MONETARY AND OTHER ISSUES. IT CAN, ON OTHER HAND, EXPRESS DETERMINATION TO SOLVE THEM IN A GOOD SPIRIT THROUGH NEGOTIATION AMONG FRIENDS WITH SAME ENDS IN VIEW.

4. BELGIANS ATTRIBUTE RELATIVELY MORE IMPORTANCE TO PROCEDURES FOR US-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE THAN DOES US. THEY AGREE WITH OTHERS OF NINE THAT EUROPEAN IDENTITY REQUIRES THAT NINE SPEAK AS AN ENTITY WITH US ON VARIOUS MATTERS RATHER THAN CONSTITUTE A GROUP WITH 10 MEMBERS. RELATIONSHIP IN THIS REGARD IS UNLIKE NATO WHERE WE MEET AS 15, AND THE NINE WILL STRONGLY RESIST ANY US PROPOSALS THAT APPEAR TO PUT THE TWO RELATIONSHIPS ON THE SAME PLANE.

5. BELGIANS CONSIDER THE STOESEL TALKS WITH THE NINE AS IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL AND LOOK TO THEIR CONTINUATION. THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT AFTER A EUROPEAN TRIP BY THE PRESIDENT. FRENCH, IN THEIR VIEW, WOULD PREFER THAT CURRENT ARRANGEMENT COME TO AN END ONCE DECLARATION HAS BEEN AGREED UPON. BELGIANS, HOWEVER, CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT US POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE NINE CONTINUE AFTER A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

6. WE NOTED TO NOTERDAEME THAT US NOT PROPOSING NEW 10 POWER INSTITUTIONS (DEPTELS 204444 AND 204937) BUT SEEKING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ASSURE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE US VIEWS KNOWN AND HAVE THEM CONSIDERED IN FORMATIVE STAGES OF DEBATE AMONG THE NINE.

7. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (BRUSSELS 5446 NOTAL) EMBASSY CONSIDERS CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TALKING WITH NINE AS DESIRABLE SUPPLEMENT TO BILATERAL CONTACTS. WITHOUT NECESSARILY SEEKING TO CODIFY THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD FAVOR FINDING PRAGMATIC BASES FOR CONTINUING AND DEVELOPING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL CONSULTATION WITH THE US THAT HAS NOW BEEN LAUNCHED. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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